

Idaho Sheep Industry Suffers A \$4.26 Million Death And Theft Loss

Idaho sheep producers lost an estimated 43,000 head of sheep and lambs from all causes, valued at \$4.26 million, in 1999. This compares with losses totaling 40,000 head with a value of \$4.26 million in 1998.

Predator losses at 29.8 percent, accounted for the largest share of losses. Coyotes did the most damage, at 9,400 head of sheep and lambs. Losses from coyotes alone were valued at \$930,000. Dogs claimed 1,100 head of sheep and lambs valued at \$109,000; bears were responsible for the deaths of 900 head, valued at \$89,000; cougars caused 600 deaths, valued at \$59,000; and fox killed 300 head, valued at \$30,000. Losses

from other and unknown predators, including bobcats, eagles and wolves, accounted for an additional 500 head of sheep and lambs.

Disease claimed 9,400 sheep and lambs in 1999 and tied with coyote losses as the leading cause of death. Weather killed 4,800 head; lambing complications claimed 4,300; 1,500 were lost to old age; 1,100 died of poisoning; and 300 were lost to theft. Other causes such as accidents, fire, starvation and dehydration caused an additional 3,900 sheep and lamb deaths during 1999.

Sheep and Lamb Losses: by Cause, Idaho, 1997-99 ^{1/}

Cause of Death	Sheep						Lambs						Value of All Sheep and Lambs 3/4/5/		
	Head			Percent of Total Loss 2/			Head			Percent of Total Loss 2/					
	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999
1,000 Dollars															
Coyote	1,900	2,500	1,700	19.0	25.0	17.0	8,900	8,700	7,700	27.0	29.0	23.3	1,188	1,193	930
Dog	200	200	500	2.0	2.0	5.0	400	300	600	1.2	1.0	1.8	66	53	109
Bear	400	500	400	4.0	5.0	4.0	700	600	500	2.1	2.0	1.5	121	117	89
Cougar	300	300	200	3.0	3.0	2.0	1,100	900	400	3.3	3.0	1.2	154	128	59
Fox	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	400	200	300	1.2	0.7	0.9	44	21	30
Other 6/	100	0	0	1.0	0.0	0.0	900	100	300	2.7	0.3	0.9	110	11	30
Unknown Predator	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	300	200	200	0.9	0.7	0.6	33	21	20
TOTAL PREDATORS	2,900	3,500	2,800	29.0	35.0	28.0	12,700	11,000	10,000	38.5	36.7	30.3	1,716	1,544	1,267
Weather	200	100	600	2.0	1.0	6.0	5,200	5,000	4,200	15.8	16.7	12.7	594	543	475
Disease	1,700	1,300	1,800	17.0	13.0	18.0	5,400	5,200	7,600	16.4	17.3	23.0	781	692	930
Poison	1,100	800	600	11.0	8.0	6.0	800	700	500	2.4	2.3	1.5	209	160	109
Lambing Complications	1,300	1,200	600	13.0	12.0	6.0	4,700	3,200	3,700	14.2	10.7	11.2	660	469	426
Old Age	1,400	1,400	1,500	14.0	14.0	15.0	--	--	--	--	--	--	154	149	149
Theft	100	100	100	1.0	1.0	1.0	100	200	200	0.3	0.7	0.6	22	32	30
On Back	100	100	100	1.0	1.0	1.0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11	11	10
Other 7/	400	500	700	4.0	5.0	7.0	2,000	2,300	3,200	6.1	7.7	9.7	264	298	386
Unknown Causes 8/	800	1,000	1,200	8.0	10.0	12.0	2,100	2,400	3,600	6.4	8.0	10.9	319	362	475
TOTAL	10,000	10,000	10,000	100.0	100.0	100.0	33,000	30,000	33,000	100.0	100.0	100.0	4,730	4,260	4,257

1/ Includes lamb deaths before docking of 17,000 in 1997, 16,000 in 1998, and 17,000 in 1999. 2/ Percentages may not add due to rounding. 3/ Based on average of beginning year and end of year value of head: 1997-\$110, 1998-\$106.50, 1999-\$99.00. 4/ Rounded to nearest 1,000 dollars, 5/ Dollar values were rounded to add to total. 6/ Includes bobcats, eagles, wolves etc. 7/ Includes accidents, fire, starvation, dehydration, etc. 8/ Exact cause of death unidentifiable. May include some predator loss.